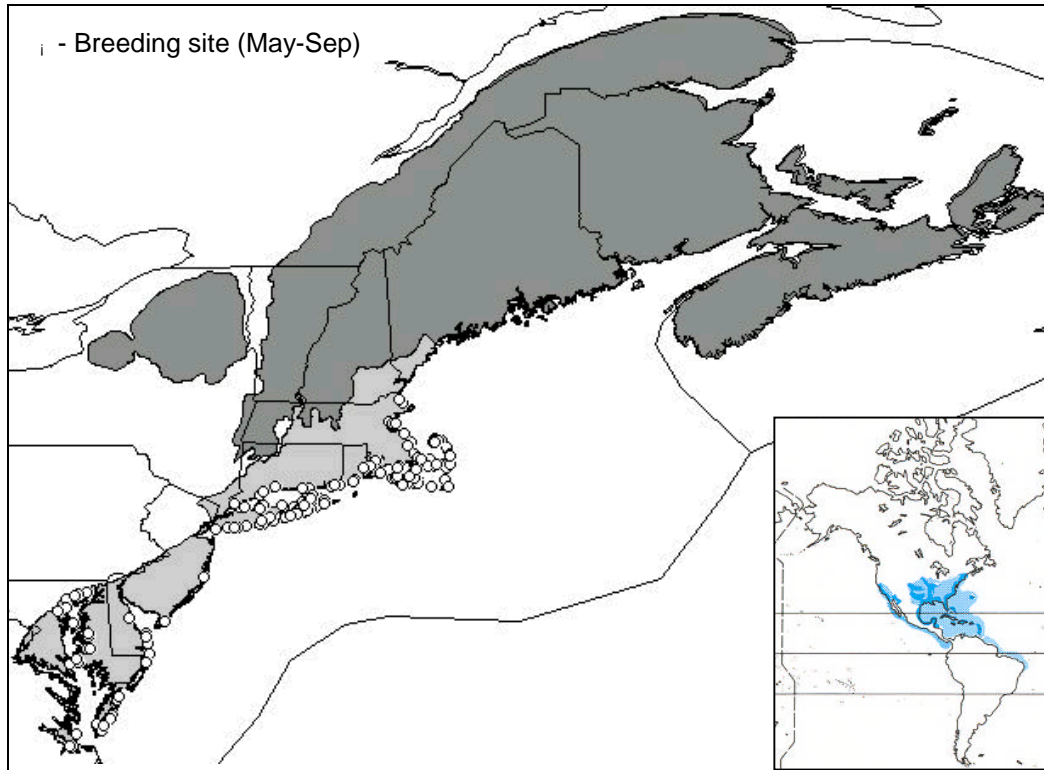


LEAST TERN

Sterna antillarum antillarum



Regional Occurrence (BCRs 14, 30)

- Distribution: breeds in region
- Habitats used: seacoasts, beaches, bays, estuaries, lagoons, lakes, rivers; breeding on sandy/gravelly beaches, banks of rivers or lakes

NAWCP BD=3; NAWCP ND=2

Regional Abundance

- 1990s population: US—13,805 (120 colonies); CAN—0
- 1970s population: US—15,244 (120 colonies)
- 9.4% decrease in regional population

NAWCP PS=2; NAWCP PT=4

Regional Threats

- Degradation/loss of habitat due to development, beach vehicles and other human use of nesting areas; also due to encroaching vegetation, removal of shell substrate; vulnerable to heavy rains and spring tides flooding nests
- Research/banding may lead to nest abandonment and chick mortality
- Predation by mammals and other bird species, esp. dogs and introduced foxes

NAWCP TB=5; NAWCP TN=4

Conservation Status: Abundance (b=breeding, nb=nonbreeding, t=total individuals) and Conservation Rank

Global	North America	BCR 14	BCR 30	Mid-Atlantic	S. New England	Gulf of Maine	Maritimes
90,000 –150,000t	60,000-100,000b	0b	13,505b	4,141b	8,552b	1,112b	0b
IUCN- Not Evaluated	NAWCP- High Concern (PI>95%)	High (PI=0%)	High (PI=14-23%)	NJ- S1B; DE-S1B MD-S2B; VA-S2B, SZN	NY-S3B; CT-S2B, SZN; RI- S2B, S2N; MA-S3; VT-na	MA-S3; NH-SHB, SZN ME-S1B; NB, NS- no info	QC- S?; PE- no info NB, NS- no info

Conservation Needs: *Sustainability:* 0.59 fledgling / breeding adult; *Foraging Habitat:* 3-12 km from colony; variety of shallow water habitats; on marine coasts - bays, lagoons, estuaries, river and creek mouths, tidal marshes and lakes, occasionally offshore; Inland sites - rivers, streams, sloughs, dike fields, marshes, ponds, sand pits and reservoirs; *Issues:* Management is needed to protect against human disturbance at nesting sites, predation, and encroaching vegetation. Experiments with artificial nesting sites and attracting Least Terns to abandoned colonies with the use of decoys have been successful in some locations; *Needs:* monitor nocturnal predation, monitor, requires active management (including of beach vehicles), reduce conflicts with beach management, roof-nesting colonies; *Population Goals:* restore (increase), target 13,600-16,600b; *Habitat Goals:*